

MPO/RTPO/WSDOT Coordinating Committee

c/o Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments
207 4th Avenue North, Administration Annex
Kelso, WA 98626-4195

September 28, 1999

Transportation Commission

SEP 30 1999

RECEIVED

Connie Niva, Chair
Washington State Transportation Commission
c/o Department of Transportation
PO Box 47308
Olympia, WA 98504-7308

Re: Support for Tribal Transportation Planning

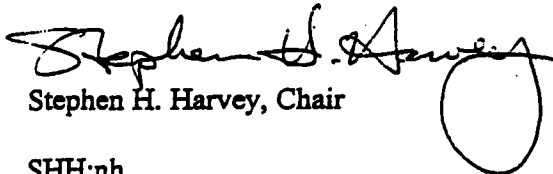
Dear Chair and Commission Members:

The MPO and RTPO members of the MPO/RTPO/WSDOT Coordinating Committee, at its September 9 meeting, voted to urge the state Transportation Commission and Department of Transportation to provide funding and staff support for tribal transportation planning. We request the Commission and department to make available Surface Transportation Program or other funds for all tribes who choose to participate in the Washington Transportation Plan (WTP) and be involved in transportation planning through MPO/RTPO processes. The department should have a person assigned to assist tribes with conducting transportation planning on tribal lands and coordinating this activity with the state and regional transportation planning organizations.

Many of the RTPOs include tribal lands and the activity on these lands are recognized as an integral part of and impact to state and local transportation systems. We recognize this as a state wide issue of social, economic and environmental importance to all transportation interests and stakeholders. The Native American organizations deserve an equivalent level of assistance and service enjoyed by the MPOs and RTPOs around the state.

Thank you and your staff for being supportive of the need for improved consultation and coordination. We look forward to continuing work on these vital issues.

Sincerely,



Stephen H. Harvey, Chair

SHH:nh

cc: Sid Morrison, Secretary, WSDOT
Chris Rose, Administrator
Jim Toohey, Assistant Secretary
Charlie Howard, Manager, Planning Office
MPO/RTPO Members

926 Tribal Support sh9

★ Benton-Franklin-Walla
Walla -MPO/RTPO

★ North Central - RTPO

★ North East Washington
RTPO

★ Palouse - RTPO

★ Peninsula - RTPO

★ Puget Sound Regional
Council

★ Quad County - RTPO

★ Skagit/Island RTPO

★ Southwest Washington
Regional Transportation
Council

★ Southwest Washington
RTPO

★ Spokane Regional
Transportation Council

★ Thurston Regional
Planning Council

★ Whatcom County
Council of Governments

★ Yima Valley
Conference of
Governments